Plight of Powerloom Workers

179. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether lakhs of powerloom and workers have become idle due to the spurt in cotton prices and sharp rise in the yarn prices;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have conducted any survey in various States to review the conditions of Handloom and Powerloom workers; and

(d) the remedial steps Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) to (c) A number of powerloom units in various regions of the country have reportedly been forced to stop production due to sudden spurt in prices of cotton and cotton yarn.

(d) The Government have taken following steps to arrest the increase in the prices of cotton and yarn:—

(i) decision to permit duty free import of cotton upto 5 lakh bales by spinning mills;

(ii) stepping of unutilised export quota of cotton out of 5 lakh bales of cotton released for export during 1993-94;

(iii) Suspension of export on 9.2.1994 in respect of the quantity of cotton already contracted for export but not yet shipped;

(iv) Reintroduction of Selective Credit Controls on Cotton;

(v) Requesting the State Governments to take steps to check hoarding of cotton;

(vi) Arrangement for supply of hank yarn by spinning mills at prices which are at least Rs. 8.00 per kg. cheaper than January' 94 prices.

Redrafing of Textile Policy

180. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to redraft the textile policy of 1985 in view of recent GATT negotiations;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have called for the views of M.Ps in this regard;

(d) if so, the reaction of the M.Ps in this regard; and

(e) by when a new textile policy is likely to be announced and implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) No such proposal is at present under consideration.

(b) to (c). Do not arise.

Stopping the Export of Cotton

181. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that Government have decided not to allow further exports of cotton during the current year; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Reasons for suspending further exports of cotton are the abnormal increase in the prices of raw cotton which are in the range of 65% and 116% above the minimum support

price level as against the lwvel of 8 and 41% above the M.P. in the corresponding period of last year. Reports about the closure of Handloom and Powerloom units adversely affecting a large number of handlooms and powerloom weavers, have started coming in as yarn prices are now exhibiting a rising trend.

राष्ट्रीय वस्त्र निगम की मिलों में स्वैच्छिक सेवा-निवृत्ति

182. **श्री कैलाश नारायण सारंग:** क्या वस्त्र मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार ने यह निर्णय किया है कि राष्ट्रीय वस्त्र निगम की मिलों के कर्मकारों को स्वैच्छिक सेवा-निवृत्ति लेने पर एन०आर०एफ० योजना के अन्तर्गत प्रतिवर्ष डेढ़ माह के वेतन के हिसाब से अनुग्रह राशि का भुगतान किया जाएगा;

(ख) यदि हां, तो क्या सरकार को राष्ट्रीय वस्त्र निगम की मिलों के कर्मकारों के समान परिस्थितियों में कार्यरत विभिन्न राज्यों में स्थित अन्य वस्त्र मिलों के कर्मकारों को भी अनुग्रह राशि के रूप में प्रतिवर्ष डेढ़ माह के वेतन का भुगतान करने के लिये एन०आर०एफ० योजना में इसी प्रकार का प्रावधान करने के लिये राज्य सरकारों से कोई प्रस्ताव प्राप्त हुआ है; और

(ग) यदि हां, तो उन राज्य सरकारों के नाम क्या हैं और उस पर क्या कार्यवाही की गई है?

वस्त्र मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री जी० वेंकट स्वामी): (क) एन टी सी मिलों में लागू स्वैच्छिक सेवा निवृत्ति योजना में की गई सेवा के प्रत्येक वर्ष के लिए डेढ़ माह की परिलब्धियों के बराबर की अनुग्रह राशि अथवा सेवा के समय की परिलब्धियों को सेवा निवृत्ति की सामान्य आयु तक शेष बचे माह की सेवा से गुणा करके प्राप्त राशि के बराबर की राशि इनमें से जो भी कम हो, के भुगतान का प्रावधान है।

(ख) और (ग) मध्य प्रदेश सरकार से अनुग्रह धन राशि भुगतान के ऐसे ही प्रावधान के संबंध में अभ्यावेदन प्राप्त हुए हैं। ऐसे अनुरोधों पर नोडिए मंत्रालय द्वारा राष्ट्रीय नवीकरण निधि की औपचारिकताओं के ढांचे के भीतर विचार किया जाना है।

Rise in Yarn Prices

183. SHRI SUNDER SINGH BHANDARI:
SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been a monthly rise in yarn prices during the last six months as compared to the prices of cotton, if so, the reasons therefor?

(b) whether inclusion of the powerloom industry in the tripartite committee that fixed the prices is being considered; and

(c) what steps are being taken to stop the member mills from changing prices too often?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) There has been increase in prices of Cotton Yarn in last six months due to sharp rise in the prices of raw cotton.

(b) and (c) There is no statutory control on prices of cotton yarn. Prices are governed by market forces of demand and supply. However, Government is concerned about the cotton yarn prices situation and prices are regularly being monitored. Recently, the Government has persuaded the Industry to supply hank yarn at prices which are lower by at least Rs. 8.00 per Kilo as compared to the prices prevailing in January, 1994.

Schemes for the Development of Handloom Sector

184. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government have urged the State Governments to expedite implementation of various schemes formulated by it for the development of the handloom sector and for the welfare of handloom weavers; and

(b) if so the details thereof?